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July 12, 2018

Joseph J. Lhota
Chair
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Chair Lhota:

I write to express my concerns that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and New Jersey Transit (NJT) may not meet the December 31 deadline for installing Positive Train Control (PTC). The Federal government has given railroads 10 years and ample resources to complete installation. Further delays to implementing this lifesaving technology are a failure of MTA and NJ Transit to ensure their passengers' safety.

As you know, PTC is a GPS-based technology that can prevent, slow, or stop a train that is moving too quickly or is at risk of derailing or crashing. PTC technology could have prevented several recent fatal train accidents, including the 2013 Spuyten-Duyvil derailment in the Bronx that killed four people and injured more than 100.

When the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 was signed into law, railroads were given seven years to prepare for the December 31, 2015 deadline. When virtually no progress had been made by mid-2015, Congress extended the PTC deadline by three years to December 31, 2018. The federal government has provided about \$2 billion in loans and grants for commuter lines to implement PTC.

NJT Executive Director Kevin Corbett recently conceded that NJT, which contracts with the MTA to provide West of Hudson service, will not meet the December 31 deadline. This announcement was followed by several weeks of significant service reductions on the Pascack Valley Line that have reduced express trains for my constituents from Rockland County. This is unacceptable.

Please provide answers to the following questions in a timely manner:

- 1) Will MTA railroads meet the PTC implementation deadline?
- 2) What is the MTA's schedule for PTC implementation work that will be done between now and the end of the year?
- 3) What is MTA's contingency plan if PTC implementation is not complete by December 31, 2018?

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your quick response.

Sincerely,


Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

CC: Kevin Corbett, Executive Director, New Jersey Transit

CC: Ed Day, Executive, Rockland County